

Appl. No. 10/540,943
Amdt. dated June 16, 2010
Reply to Office action of December 17, 2009

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-17. **(Cancelled)**

18. **(Currently amended)** A fuel filter comprising
a filter housing,
at least one fuel inlet (2) provided on the filter housing,
at least one fuel outlet (3) provided on the filter housing,
a means an element located in the filter housing for separating which separates
water from the fuel,
at least one sump (51) ~~(4, 32, 44, 51)~~ located in the filter housing for collecting the
water separated from the fuel,
a water outlet (52) ~~(5, 41, 52)~~ provided on the filter housing associated with through
which water drains from the sump,
control means (6) for a valve (53) which opens and closes the water outlet (52) ~~(5,~~
~~41, 52)~~, and
means mounted on the fuel filter downstream of the water outlet for separating
contaminants from [[the]] water to be which has been drained [[off]] from the sump, said

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means for separating contaminants from [[the]] water to be which has been drained [[off]] from the sump being located inside a container and the container is mounted directly to [[on]] the filter housing such that the container and filter housing are in direct contact with each other.

19. (Currently amended) The fuel filter according to claim 18, wherein said element means for separating water from the fuel includes a filter element which also cleans contaminants from the fuel and wherein the sump is associated with the clean side of the filter element.

20. (Currently amended) The fuel filter according to claim 18, wherein said element means for separating water from the fuel includes a filter element which also cleans contaminants from the fuel and wherein the sump is associated with the dirty side of the filter element.

21. (Currently amended) The fuel filter according to claim 18, wherein the means mounted on the fuel filter downstream of the water outlet for separating contaminants from [[the]] water to be which has been drained [[off]] from the sump comprises an activated charcoal filter (54).

22. (Currently amended) The fuel filter according to claim 19, wherein the means mounted on the fuel filter downstream of the water outlet for separating contaminants from [[the]] water to be which has been drained [[off]] from the sump comprises an activated charcoal filter (54).

23. (Currently amended) The fuel filter according to claim 20, wherein the means mounted on the fuel filter downstream of the water outlet for separating contaminants from [[the]] water to be which has been drained [[off]] from the sump comprises an activated charcoal filter (54).

24. (Currently amended) The fuel filter according to claim 18, wherein the means mounted on the fuel filter downstream of the water outlet for separating contaminants from [[the]] water to be which has been drained [[off]] from the sump comprises a water absorption and evaporation unit, open to the environment.

Claim 25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently amended) The fuel filter according to claim 24, wherein the water absorption and evaporation unit has an absorbent material [[(12)]].

Claim 27. (Canceled)

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28. **(Currently amended)** The fuel filter according to claim 26, wherein the material [[(12)]] at least partly comprises an absorbent paper.

29. **(Currently amended)** The fuel filter according to claim 26, wherein the material [[(12)]] is at least partly spongelike.

30. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 24, wherein the water absorption and evaporation unit has a large evaporation surface area.

Claims 31-35. **(Canceled)**

36. **(Currently amended)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, further comprising at least one water level sensor (7, 8, 31, 33, 34), located in the region of the sump (51) (4, 32, 44, 51), for controlling the water outlet.

37. **(Currently amended)** The fuel filter according to claim 36, further comprising two water level sensors (7, 8, 31, 33, 34).

Claims 38-41. **(Canceled)**